

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 2467 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS

HONG KONG LONDON PARIS ROME SEOUL TOKYO APR 10

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 2467

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: GATT

SUBJ: TEXTILE SURVEILLANCE BODY - EC REPORTS STATUS

COMPLIANCE WITH MFA ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPHS 2(I) AND (II)

1. TSB CHAIRMAN WURTH CIRCULATED APRIL 7 TO TSB
MEMBERS TEXT OF LETTER DATED MARCH 27. FROM EC REPORTING
STATUS EC COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS PARA 2(I) AND (II)
MFA ARTICLE 2. REPORT (AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER
COMPLIANCE) CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS DEPRESSING AND
CAN BE EXPECTED PRODUCE STATE OF RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION
AMONG DEVELOPING EXPORTING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS AMONG
THOSE IMPORTING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE TRYING MEET OR
HAVE MET MFA OBLIGATIONS. EC CERTAIN TO RECEIVE
STRONG CRITICISM IN BOTH TSB AND TC MEETINGS SCHEDULED
FOR APRIL.

2. LETTER ESSENTIALLY PROPOSES A TWO-PART PROGRAM TO

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MEET REQUIREMENTS ARTICLE 2. FIRST PART CONSISTS OF

STATEMENT OF "INTENT TO NEGOTIATE" BILATERAL AGREEMENTS
WITH 17 EXPORTING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE: INDIA, PAKISTAN,
HONG KONG, KOREA, SINGAPORE, YUGOSLAVIA, COLOMBIA,
MEXICO, BRAZIL, PORTUGAL (FOR MACAO), MALAYSIA, JAPAN,
POLAND, ROMANIA, HUNGARY, EGYPT, AND THAILAND. NO
RESTRICTION PRESENTLY MAINTAINED ON IMPORTS FROM THESE
COUNTRIES WILL BE REMOVED OR ALTERED UNTIL COMPLETION
OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH COUNTRY CONCERNED. IMPLICATIONS
THIS POSITION ARE CLEAR WHEN IT IS NOTED THAT AS OF
THIS DATE EC HAS NOT YET NEGOTIATED FIRST AGREEMENT
AND, FOR THAT MATTER, HAS ONLY STARTED FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS
WITH INDIA, PAKISTAN AND HONG KONG.

3. SECOND PART OF PROGRAM CONSISTS OF SCHEDULE FOR
PROGRESSIVE THREE-YEAR ELIMINATION OF RESTRAINTS
PRESENTLY IMPOSED ON TEXTILE IMPORTS FROM ALL OTHER
EXPORTING COUNTRIES. SUPERFICIAL EXAMINATION THIS
LIST APPEARS INDICATE THAT ELIMINATION OF RESTRAINTS
ON LARGER PORTION THIS TRADE WILL BE DEFERRED TO
LAST YEAR OF PROGRAM (APRIL 1, 1976 -
APRIL 1, 1977). PRINCIPLE SUFFERERS HERE WILL BE
EASTERN EUROPEANS.

4. ALSO, IN CONNECTION WITH STATEMENT OF INTENT TO
NEGOTIATE BILATERALS, EC APPEARS TO BE IGNORING DUAL
REQUIREMENTS FOR "CONSULTATIONS BY THE PARTICIPATING
COUNTRIES CONCERNED" AND "CONCURRENCE OF THE TSB"
SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 2, PARA 2 (II). UNDERSTANDING
IN GENEVA IS THAT EC, IN LATE MARCH UNILATERALLY
INFORMED COUNTRIES CONCERNED OF ITS INTENT TO NEGOTIATE
AND APPEARS TAKE POSITION THIS ACTION CONSTITUTES
BOTH "CONSULTATION" AND "OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS",
E.G., IN EC VIEW, ALL AGREEMENTS WITH 17 COUNTRIES
ARE NOW "IN COURSE NEGOTIATION".

5. JAPANESE MISSION (UNDER INSTRUCTION) APPROACHED
SECRETARIAT (PATTERSON) LAST WEEK ASKING EC ARTICLE 2
ISSUE BE PLACED ON AGENDA TC MEETING. SECRETARIAT
SOUGHT DISCOURAGE THIS SINCE MATTER SHOULD BE REFERRED
TC BY TSB BUT, OF COURSE, TOLD JAPANESE THEY FREE
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RAISE IT UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS". JAPANESE MISSION
NOW SEEKING INSTRUCTIONS TOKYO.

6. PATTERSON SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD US REP THAT, AT
TIME DG LONG TRYING SET UP TC MEETING, EC OBJECTED
HAVING MEETING THIS TIME BUT AGREED AFTER SECRETARIAT
OFFICIAL (SALIB) TOLD EC REP SECRETARIAT WOULD NOT
PUT ART 2 ISSUE ON DRAFT AGENDA. SECRETARIAT, OF

COURSE, DID TELL EC THAT TC COULD PUT ISSUE ON AGENDA
EITHER AS SEPARATE ITEM OR UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS".

7. ISSUE IS CERTAIN ARISE IN APRIL 17 TSB MEETING
SINCE US REP HAS BEEN TOLD BY HONG KONG AND JAPANESE
REPS THAT THEY WILL OPEN DISCUSSION.

8. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY US REP INTENDS
JOIN CRITICISM EC PROGRAM IN TSB SESSION. WHILE IT
DOUBTFUL THAT EC'S "COMMON DENOMINATOR" APPROACH CAN
BE ACCELERATED BY TSB-TC CRITICISM, IN US REPS VIEW,
IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT CONTINUOUS PRESSURE BE MAIN-
TAINED. TO THIS END, IN REPORTING STATUS US ACTIONS
UNDER ART 2, US REP WILL OVERTLY SEEK TSB "CONCURRENCE"
IN EXTENSION TIME FOR COMPLETING ART 2 REQUIREMENTS".
THIS ACTION WILL NOT ONLY BE APPLAUDED IN TSB BUT WILL
PROVIDE EC CRITICS WITH MORE AMMUNITION. INFORMAL
SOUNDING TSB COLLEAGUES BY US REP CONFIRMS THIS VIEW.

9. COPY EC LETTER TO WURTH AIRMAILED TO WILLIAMS,
EBFTD FOR CIRCULATION INTERESTED AGENCIES.
ABRAMSUNQUOTE KISSINGER

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